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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/904,269	07/12/2001	Dennis L. Matthies	ITL0571US (P11416)	2029
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EXAMINER RAABE, CHRISTOPHER M				
ART UNIT 2879		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/904,269

Applicant(s)

MATTHIES, DENNIS L.

Examiner

CHRISTOPHER M. RAABE

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No./Mail Date: _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's submission filed 17 April 2008 has been entered and acknowledged by the examiner.

Applicant's arguments filed 17 April 2008 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,4-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. (USPN 2001/0048234), in view of Kamiya (USPN 5563683).

With regard to claim 1,

Liu et al. disclose in at least figure 1 and paragraph 3 a method comprising: receiving and applying a force to the center of a sheet (10); applying row and column electrodes to said sheet (10); and securing said sheet (10) to a second sheet (131) while continuing to hold said sheet (10). While Liu et al. do not explicitly disclose the row and column electrodes to be applied while the sheet is held, this practice was well known to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for providing a stable receiving member, and therefore would have been obvious to do the same.

Liu do not disclose the receiving member flattening the sheet (10).

Kamiya does disclose in at least column 1 using a vacuum chuck analogous to that of Liu et al. to flatten a sheet, reducing defects.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Kamiya with that of Liu et al. in order to reduce defects.

With regard to claim 2,

Kamiya discloses the method of claim 1 wherein temporarily flattening the sheet includes placing the sheet in a vacuum chuck and applying a vacuum to flatten the sheet.

With regard to claim 4,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 3 wherein processing said sheet (10) includes applying a light emitting material to said sheet.

With regard to claim 5,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 4 wherein applying a light emitting material to said sheet (10) includes applying an organic light emitting material between said row and column electrodes.

With regard to claim 6,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 1. While Liu et al. do not disclose processing said second sheet in a flattened configuration, Kamiya do disclose processing a sheet with a chuck analogous to that of Liu et al. to flatten the sheet, reducing defects.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Kamiya with that of Liu et al. in order to reduce defects.

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With regard to claim 7,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 6 including processing said second sheet (131) in a chuck (30).

With regard to claim 8,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 7 including processing both said first (10) and second (131) sheets in chucks (20,30) and combining said sheets using said chucks.

With regard to claim 9,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 1 including securing said first (10) and second (131) sheets to an integrator plate (12).

With regard to claim 10,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 9 including surface mounting said first (10) and second (131) sheets.

With regard to claim 11,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 8 including surface mounting said first (10) and second (131) sheets in said chucks (20,30).

With regard to claim 12,

Liu et al. disclose a method comprising: receiving a sheet (10); applying a force to the center of said sheet (10); processing said sheet (10) by applying electrodes to said sheet; and securing said sheet (10) to a planar surface (131).

Liu do not disclose the receiving member flattening the sheet (10).

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Kamiya does disclose in at least column 1 using a vacuum chuck analogous to that of Liu et al. to flatten a sheet, reducing defects.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Kamiya with that of Liu et al. in order to reduce defects.

With regard to claim 13,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 12 including securing said sheet (10) to a second sheet (131) while continuing to hold said sheet.

Liu do not disclose the receiving member flattening the sheet (10).

Kamiya does disclose in at least column 1 using a vacuum chuck analogous to that of Liu et al. to flatten a sheet, reducing defects.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Kamiya with that of Liu et al. in order to reduce defects.

With regard to claim 14,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 12.

Liu do not disclose the receiving member flattening the sheet (10).

Kamiya does disclose in at least column 1 using a vacuum chuck analogous to that of Liu et al. to flatten a sheet, reducing defects.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Kamiya with that of Liu et al. in order to reduce defects.

With regard to claim 15,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 12 including securing said sheet (10) to a rigid, planar integrating plate (12).

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With regard to claim 16,

Liu et al. disclose a method comprising: receiving a sheet (131) and applying a force to the center of the sheet (131); processing a glass panel (10) to define row and column electrodes thereon; and securing said sheet (131) to said glass panel (10) while continuing to hold said sheet (131). While Liu et al. do not disclose the sheet to be ceramic, a ceramic sheet was well known to and widely used by those of ordinary skill in the art to provide a durable protective cover for a display and therefore would have been obvious to the same to incorporate into the method of Liu et al. Additionally, while Liu et al. do not disclose the row and column electrode to be applied while continuing to hold the center of said sheet, this practice was well known to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for providing a stable receiving member, and therefore would have been obvious to the same.

Liu do not disclose the receiving member flattening the sheet (10).

Kamiya does disclose in at least column 1 using a vacuum chuck analogous to that of Liu et al. to flatten a sheet, reducing defects.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Kamiya with that of Liu et al. in order to reduce defects.

With regard to claim 17,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 16 including securing said sheet (131) and said panel (10) to an integrating plate (12).

With regard to claim 18,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 16.

Liu do not disclose the receiving member flattening the sheet (10).

Kamiya does disclose in at least column 1 using a vacuum chuck analogous to that of Liu et al. to flatten a sheet, reducing defects.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Kamiya with that of Liu et al. in order to reduce defects.

With regard to claim 19,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 16 wherein processing said panel further includes applying an organic light emitting material between said row and column electrodes.

With regard to claim 20,

Liu et al. disclose the method of claim 16 further including processing both said sheet (131) and said panel (10) in chucks (20,30) and combining said sheet (131) and said panel (10) using said chucks (20,30).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER M. RAABE whose telephone number is (571)272-8434. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 7am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on 571-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher Raabe/

/Mariceli Santiago/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2879